

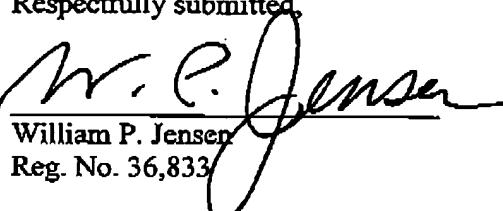
in the art, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection on this basis and submits that the Examiner's reliance on the same is inappropriate under the standards set forth in MPEP 2144.03. Regardless, each of these dependent claims depends from one of the distinguished independent claims (1, 24, 37, 50, 56 or 60) and therefore, is patentably distinguished from the foregoing references relied upon by the Examiner.

Conclusion

Based upon this Amendment and Response, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-60 are distinguished from the cited references and requests prompt allowance of the same. The prior art made of record but not relied upon is also felt to be patentably distinguished from the cited references for the same reasons.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the two-month extension fee, any other amount required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 50-3385. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,


William P. Jensen
Reg. No. 36,833

Date: February 24, 2005

CRAIN CATON & JAMES
1401 McKinney, Suite 1700
Houston, Texas 77010-4035
(713) 658-2323
(713) 658-1921 (fax)
wjensen@craincaton.com

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office by facsimile to (703) 872-9306 on:

2-24-05

Date

Signature

136 - 228080v1
033849/000001